

For Immediate Release
May 11, 2005
Tucson, AZ

Press Release

NP Photonics Wins U.S. Air Force Contract to Advance Fiber Optic Image Amplifier

NP Photonics (Tucson, AZ), a leading supplier of optical components and modules for the sensing, military, industrial and R&D markets, has been awarded a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract by the Air Force Research Laboratories at Kirkland Air Force Base.

Worth \$750,000 over the next two years, the SBIR contract will allow NP Photonics to further develop their compact Panoramic Optical Power Amplifiers suitable for two-dimensional image amplification. The amplifier is based on NP's high gain per unit length Yb-doped phosphate glass and fiber technology. Multiple active cores in one optical fiber are energized collectively by semiconductor pump diodes and are used to amplify the pixels of an image or array.

“This SBIR program allows us to develop a new approach to image amplification that combines the high gain and high efficiency properties of cladding pumped optical amplifiers with the imaging properties of coherent fiber bundles,” said Dr. Arturo Chavez-Pirson, Director of Technology Development at NP Photonics.

Amplification of low-level light images is important in many areas particularly laser tracking and pointing of remote targets. An image amplifier covering a wide field of view captures multiple targets simultaneously with better signal to noise, leading to higher system performance – such as a longer target range capability or a stronger immunity to atmospheric disturbance.

In Phase II, NP Photonics will continue development by increasing pixel count for enhanced spatial resolution. Operational prototypes will be evaluated in collaboration with the Air Force as low noise image amplifiers in acquisition, tracking and pointing systems.

NP Photonics is using innovative glass and fiber technology to design, produce and deliver a new class of advanced optical light sources for sensing, medical and R & D markets. The company has developed a broad family of products including Narrow-Linewidth Fiber Lasers, ASE sources, Fiber Amplifiers, and High-Power Light Sources.

For additional information contact:
Philippe Brak
VP of Sales and Marketing
NP Photonics
PBrak@npphotonics.com
Tel. 520 799 7496; Fax 520 799 7403
www.npphotonics.com